

Inside: Student Fiction & Letters

CITY COLLEGE NEWS

DECEMBER 1995

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

VOLUME 13, NO. 4

NEWS SHORTS

FEES TO RISE 15 PER CENT AND PROVINCIAL FUNDING IS CUT 15 PER CENT

George Brown students will have to dig a bit deeper in 1996 to pay tuition fees. The provincial government announced in late November that college fees will go up by 15 per cent for the 1996/97 year. This means that most full-time George Brown students will see their annual fees rise by \$166.20 to about \$1,450. The college will keep all that extra money from each student except for \$16.62 which will go to help students in financial need, according to the government. The 15 per cent tuition increase under the current government follows two years of 10 per cent increases under the NDP government as more of the cost of a college education is shifted from taxpayers in general to college students themselves.

COLLEGE FACES \$12 MILLION SHORTFALL, PROGRAM SUSPENSIONS MULLED

The government has also announced a 14.8 per cent decrease in funding to Ontario colleges for the 1996/97 year — which will reduce funding at George Brown by about \$7 million. Provincial funding, which is based on the number of students enrolled at the college, accounts for about half of all college revenue. Overall, George Brown is planning to reduce spending by about \$12 million in 1996/97, according to a recent memo to staff by acting president Frank Sorochinsky. That reduction may necessitate suspending some academic programs to save money in staff salaries, which account for about 80 per cent of all college expenditures. The college is now trying to "focus" its programming and specialize, according to the memo. "That which we do best will grow. That which has serious ongoing operating difficulties may not be part of our future," says Sorochinsky's memo. Program suspensions are expected to be announced early in 1996. Sheridan College in Oakville announced recently the suspension of 10 programs including nursing and fashion design.

HOSPITALITY GRADS CAN NOW GET UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY DEGREES

Graduates of George Brown's Hotel Management and Food and Beverage Management programs are just two years away from a degree from the University of Calgary in Hotel and Resort Management, according to a recently signed agreement. The agreement adds to the post-graduate educational options for Hospitality Centre grads, which currently also includes degrees from Ryerson, New Hampshire, Johnson and Wales and Rochester Universities.



ONCE AND FUTURE SKYLIGHTS - Workers put gravel and tar on top of a concrete box that was once to be skylights to brighten the new lobby at St. James Campus. The skylights were cut out of the current renovation project because of their cost, but allowances were made in resurfacing the patio roof to more easily create them in the future. The \$2.5 million project, including the student centre, is going more slowly than originally forecast, with completion now scheduled for the early part of 1996.



SANTA'S HELPERS - Building renovation student Pete Murray checks out one of more than 185 wooden toys that he and 40 other students in the program made over the past four weeks. Student Michael Hamilton made the rocking cow to his left. The toys were to be given to the Christmas Wish Foundation and given out at the college's Christmas party. Teachers Andy Groen, Tom Stephenson and Michael Bezemer used the toy construction as a learning opportunity in which students had to efficiently plan and produce the toys, costing out materials and their time. Much of the wood used to make the toys was recycled from other projects.

Students feeling the financial pinch

A few weeks ago six-year-old Jonathan Tore had to make a terrible choice.

He had to choose between having a party with presents for his seventh birthday on Dec. 21 or to get presents for Christmas. His mother, George Brown student Teresa Tore, says she couldn't afford to buy both for him.

"He chose his birthday," says Tore.

Tore, a single parent who is in her last year of a business program, says she had no choice but to focus her meager disposable income on one event or the other.

"I have a very tight budget.... I live month to month," she says.

After paying for rent, day care, food, transportation and other necessities, Tore says she has just a few dollars to spend every month.

After hearing an ad, Tore described her financial situation and dilemma in a letter to a radio station — HOT 103.5 — which responded with donated gifts and a birthday party for him and six friends.

"It was like a miracle...I've never been lucky," says Tore.

George Brown student counsellor Lois Athanasius says she is



Student Teresa Tore won a better Christmas and a birthday party for her son from a radio station which responded to her letter describing her financial plight.

seeing more students who are feeling the financial pinch than in past years.

Reduced levels of government assistance, fewer part-time and summer jobs and reduced family incomes because of high levels of unemployment are combining to create intense financial worries for more students, she says.

"For a lot of people it's really tight," Athanasius says.

Money worries are so bad for some students that they're distracted from their studies — adding yet another source of stress.

"If people are concerned

about their very survival, they aren't concentrating on what's going on in class," she says.

The *Toronto Star* recently reported the case of one student who ran out of money, was evicted, dropped out of college and now lives in hostels and shelters for homeless people.

He hopes to find work that will allow him to continue his program, he is reported as saying.

George Brown financial assistance manager Audrey Albert says there's very little the college can do in cases like this.

Students who run out of money may qualify for emergency loans in small amounts, but the college can't bail out students who need large amounts or whose problems result from poor planning or budgeting, she says.

But before dropping out, students should talk to a consultant in the Financial Assistance office to see what can be done, Albert says.

Planning and careful budgeting is the key to financial survival for college students, she says.

Students who live on their own need about \$9,000 a year for college, while even those living with their parents should have between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

New workshop series

To the Editor,

Dan, (not his real name), has decided to drop out of his program. He has given up, he is failing both class assignments and tests, even though he is studying for long periods of time. I asked about the study skills he is employing and discovered at least

one of the reasons for his lack of success - Dan doesn't have any study skills. We talked a little about his learning style and then discussed some techniques to try. Dan had not realized the importance of breaks and setting goals for his study time, he did not know how to read his text book effectively and he had not developed any strategies to help him

remember and recall the course material.

This is just one of the many difficulties that are discouraging our students. They are unprepared and unaware of the skills necessary to be a successful student. We have all been grappling with ways of addressing these needs and in Student Affairs we want to provide support to the academic process, before students experience failure.

Faced with budget constraints, it was difficult at first, until we got beyond the notion of looking for ways to do more with less and on to looking for ways of doing things differently. We have expanded the Peer Tutoring program to provide opportunities for study groups and other variations and we continue to work with Winston Marcellin in the Faculty of Business, who has recruited tutors and prepared materials for accounting tutorials. We will be working with Pam Idahosa from the Mathematics and Communications Resource Centre to develop appropriate training and resources for tutors and will be coordinating a project with faculty and support staff to offer summer learning opportunities for new students.

Our most recent venture is the Quick Tip series. (see list on p. 4) We have prepared 45 minute sessions on everything from Learning Styles, Time Management, Preparing Papers and Reports, Test Taking

Strategies and Presentation Skills to Self Esteem, Complaining Effectively and Dealing with Conflict. Each session will provide students with background information and practical strategies they can begin using immediately.

The sessions will be offered at all campuses at various times, (mostly between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., as recommended by a survey we conducted). Available sessions will be posted weekly at each campus and students may register at one session and we will be charging a looney, at the time of registration.

Our plan is to also adapt the format of these workshops and create a video library and eventually internet access of all the topics for student use.

We will be forwarding information about the Quick Tip series to program coordinators and we plan to begin offering the sessions the week of January 22nd. If you would like more information, contact me at 415-2674 or go to your counselling office.

Franky Chernin,
Student Affairs Department

Religious holidays

To the Editor,

In the October issue of *City College News*, on page 8 in the events listings there was a list of many religious holidays, but one

of the most observed by all Christians "All Saints Day", which is on November 1st, was omitted.

The Christians are still the largest group in Canada and this day is observed by them as a memorial day and should be considered.

Irena Pietryga

(Editor's Note: The religious holidays listed in *City College News* are major observances that may require students or staff to be absent from class or college for the day or days in question. Not every observance is listed.)

HAVE YOUR SAY!

If you're concerned about a topic, issue of event that you think will be of interest to students and staff at George Brown — put it down on paper and send City College News a letter, article or story idea. Drop off (or mail it by Canada Post or internet college mail) your submission to:

Editor, City College News
Marketing Services Department
George Brown College
St. James Campus Room 542E
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 3W5
or fax it to 415-2303

The deadline for submissions for our January issue is Thursday, Dec. 21.

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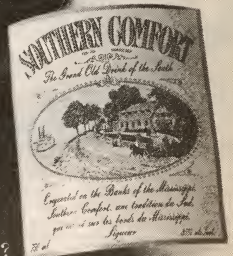
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Go in' South Tonight?

SUMMERS

I C O M E O U T W E S T

The window is broken. A triangle of glass is missing from the corner at the bottom. It doesn't bother me too much now in the summer month of July. It is dry, so only wind and dust and dirt and small rodents can get into this room. I imagine the snow and ice funneling through the break in the window with a monster's intensity. Prairie winter intensity.

This is my Grandma's room.

It is a small room, really just a walk-in closet except it has a window. It is perpendicular to the house and narrow, only enough room for a simple wardrobe, a tall bureau and a full length mirror. Grandma kept her white vinyl purse in here. I would follow her into the room when invited and she'd click open her purse and root around old kleenexes and papers and pull out a dollar bill for me. It wasn't my birthday. I always remember it being summer. Warm, dry, this look-out was important when playing in the yard. She'd blush and giggle when I tiptoed her a thank you kiss on her windworn cheek.

Grandma died in 1989. No one has lived in the old farm house since 1979. Dad and Mom and my sister visit the farm regularly and I like to go there if I am able to make it out west in the summer. Every summer visit I go through all the drawers of Grandma's bureau in this room. Her stockings are in the top drawer. Beige support hose with wide elastic tops. She had fat flabby thighs that peeked out when she sat, legs spread wide like a man. I could see the elastic cutting into the flab of her thighs.

In another drawer she kept all kinds of paper — every hydro bill, creamery receipt, Christmas card she'd received for the past 50 years. Grandma couldn't read or write very well. She wrote her name like a child.

She had her grade three when her father pulled her out of school to work on his farm. To make money she scrubbed floors for an English landowner. She married my Grandfather when she was 18. Their homestead was free land, Canadian Shield rocks and trees which they cleared to plant barley and rye. Grandma milked a barn full of cows with bursting udders early every morning. When she was 19 she gave birth to Victoria, who died five months later, too little and sickly to survive the hard work ahead. Outlasting the Depression left Grandma little time to learn to read and write.

Thirty years of fashion, farm fashion, I find in these drawers. Kerchiefs and gloves and large cotton underwear. Much of the clothing is meticulously shredded. Mice have left their droppings and built abandoned nests. A fuzzy toothbrush and gold compact seem out of place in the mess. I never saw grandma brush her teeth. She hardly had any teeth for as long as I can remember. A left grey incisor stands out in my mind. She sucked and gnawed food, especially chicken feet in cream. I was appalled. Grandma cooked meals that frightened me. Chicken gizzards in fresh cream, hamburger hash in gray mushroom gravy, fried pork chops. Mom and Dad never let pork in our house in the city. Even cereal in the morning was a cause of worry for me. The milk in the pitcher was warm, direct from the cows in the stinking barn.

Grandma's wardrobe contains the thin moth-eaten house dresses she always wore. Invariably there were buttons missing which she replaced with large safety pins to secure her dress closed over large drooping breasts that hung to her waist. She had born six children into this world, including Victoria, and suckled each one except for dad. He was born premature, so small only a pound and a half, the story goes. Grandma would put him in the oven of the wood burning stove so he'd stay warm. Another local farm woman named Mrs. Keeper would walk five miles everyday to feed Dad with the milk in her breasts.

Grandma was a fat, tall, big woman. When she enveloped me with a hug, which she did regularly, I would disappear into the folds of her body. She smelled greasy and old. The farm house never had running water. My Mom and Sister and I would haul buckets of water from the well up the hill

and have sponge baths every night with the water heated on the wood stove. When I started having my period I thought of dirty napkins and unbathed body parts when she hugged me. Her dresses and sweaters still have this smell.

I rummage through her wardrobe, hoping to find something interesting that I can rework into my own vintage-styled stock of clothes. I grab her white wool sweater from a nail on the back of the wardrobe door. A photo falls from the pocket to the floor. I squat down to the ground and settle cross-legged in a stream of sun and disturbed dust. It is a picture of Grandma and Grandpa standing beside a car that has a running board along the bottom side. It must be spring because the skinny white poplar trees in the background have no leaves, and the wind blows Grandma's dress strongly

A SHORT STORY BY CORINNA HOLUNGA

between her legs, looking like pantaloons. It is always so windy in the early spring. She has a light-coloured kerchief on her head, tied in the back, that blends into the whiteness of the sky. Her face stands out — round and manly. Her elbows are outstretched, hands on her waist. She looks tough and strong. Inside the darkness of the car I can make out a young man's face and a gun pointing out of the half-opened window. Grandpa's hair crests up like a wave in the wind. Bonnie and Clyde.

I catch my reflection in a large blackened shard of what's left of Grandma's mirror. A small piece propped up against the wall. I am petite and pretty, smooth-skinned and bright. This woman, this farm woman, I am her blood, yet there is no resemblance. The last time I saw Grandma was in the Roblin hospital, her eyes glazed over with cataracts, blind. Her body shrunk to the bone, folds of skin hanging uselessly from every part of her body. She was almost bald. She was quiet and gentle and glad I had come. She died in April on my Dad's birthday. I received the call at work in Toronto from Mom. I didn't go out west for her funeral. Mom and Dad said it was okay because I had seen her when it really counted. I hear my name called and it's time to go. I pocket the photo into my sweater. My family has come to expect this inventory I do in my Grandma's room, the summers I come out west. They leave me alone in this room, alone with my Grandmother's things, my Grandma's life. When I am back in Toronto I think of the dust swirling around in the sunbeams that dance through the window. My family's far-away voices drift in and out like the prairie wind. It is calm and peaceful, warm and loving. The memory settles my hectic city life in the winter.

Winter comes into this room when I'm not here. Before leaving, I again open a drawer in the bureau and take out one of Grandma's kerchiefs. It is colourful and pretty, contrasting with the rest of the old room, her old clothes. She would always wear a kerchief when she went to town, tightly knotted under her chin. At the many parties at the farm all the older women wore these beautiful, ethnic scarves. They reminded me of painted Ukrainian Easter eggs.

I carefully ball up Grandma's kerchief and fit it into the triangle of missing glass of the window. It suddenly becomes quiet in the room, the dustbeams settle. I close the drawer of the bureau and leave to join my family.

This story, written by Corinna Holunga for the George Brown Women Writers Workshop in the winter, 1995 term, was published along with 17 other pieces of student fiction — short stories, screenwriting and poetry — in Intersections 1995, a collection of student work. Holunga, who worked out west as a newspaper reporter, and television production assistant currently works in Toronto's film industry. She is currently working towards a certificate in creative writing at George Brown. Intersections 1995, which is published by the former Faculty of Academic Studies and Resources.

DEC./JAN. EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec. 6 - Swedish Movie Night, featuring *House of Angels*, a subtitled feature film from Sweden and a traditional Swedish smorgasbord. Casa Loma Student Lounge, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$4 and are available from counselling offices at Casa Loma and Nightingale campuses, the international office at St. James and the Hospitality Club office at the Hospitality Centre. A bus for the event will leave from St. James at 5 p.m. and stop to pick up people at Nightingale Campus a few minutes later. Sponsored by the International Student Network.

Dec. 9 - Annual Children's Christmas Party featuring a hot lunch, entertainment and a visit from Santa. There will also be an emphasis on offering a variety of other cultural customs and traditions. Casa Loma, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10 for children of college staff, \$15 other children, \$6 adults. For information call Rachel Strangis, at 415-4527.

Jan. 15 - Nominations close for a first-year student position on the Student Association Board of Directors. Nomination forms are available from Association offices at Casa Loma and St. James. Nominees must be prepared to attend monthly meetings of the Board. For information call Babka Ardoush at 415-2462.

ENTERTAINMENT

Nov. 23 to Dec. 10 - George Brown Theatre presents the classic drama *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertold Brecht. 530 King St. E. Performances are at 8 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on some days. Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for students/seniors). For performance times, information and ticket reservations call (416) 415-2167.

Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Camp Zu pub: St. James, 2 to 7 p.m. Student Lounge (north end of cafeteria).

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

Dec. 27 - 29 - George Brown's women's basketball team play in the Schoolcraft College Tournament in Livonia, Michigan.

Jan. 2 - Interspersed basketball: Men's team vs. Nazareth College, St. James gym, 8 p.m.

- registration starts for lunchtime intramurals in indoor soccer and blind volleyball. League play starts Jan. 8.

Jan. 10 - Interspersed basketball: Women's teams. Fanshawe College, St. James gym, 6 p.m.

Jan. 12 - Interspersed Basketball: Men's



team vs. Centennial at 6 p.m. and women's team vs. Canadore College at 8 p.m. St. James gym.

Jan. 15 - Registration starts for Tai Chi classes: Classes will be held in the St. James gym starting Jan. 30 from 4 to 5 p.m. Also check out our tennis and aerobics classes.

Jan. 17 - Interspersed Basketball: Women's team vs. Niagara College at 6 p.m.; men's team at 8 p.m. St. James gym.

MEETINGS

Jan. 9 - Board of Governors, 5:30 p.m., boardroom, 500 MacPherson Ave.

- Finance and Property committee of the Board, 5 p.m., boardroom, 500 MacPherson Ave.

Jan. 10 - Student Association Board meeting. All students are welcome to attend. For information call 425-2455.

Jan. 23 - Strategic Planning committee meeting of the Board, 5 p.m., boardroom, 500 MacPherson Ave.

Jan. 24 - Academic and Student Affairs committee of the Board, 5 p.m., boardroom, 500 MacPherson Ave.

Jan. 30 - Finance and Property committee of the Board, 5 p.m., boardroom, 500 MacPherson Ave. This meeting includes a detailed analysis of college financial statements.

COLLEGE CLOSINGS

Dec. 22 - George Brown closes for the Winter break at noon. It reopens at the normal time on Jan. 2, 1996. Happy New Year!

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Quick Tip Workshops: Please go to your campus counselling office to register. Cost for each session is \$1, payable at registration. Each session has a maximum of 10 students. For more information call or visit your campus counselling office or see Franky Chermis's letter published on page 2 of this newspaper.

Jan. 22 - *Learning Styles*, St. James Campus, 10 a.m.; *Notetaking*, Casa Loma, Noon; *Worry Stoppers*, Nightingale, Noon.

Jan. 23: *Time Management*, St. James, 10 a.m.

Jan. 24: *Time Management*, Casa Loma,

11 a.m.; *Learning Styles*, Casa Loma, 1 p.m.

Jan. 26: *Stress Management*, St. James, 2 p.m.

Jan. 29: *Study Skills*, St. James, 10 a.m.; *Learning Styles*, Nightingale, noon.

Jan. 30: *Worry Stoppers*, St. James, 1 p.m.; *Stress Management*, Casa Loma, noon.

Jan. 31: *Study Skills*, St. James 10 a.m.; *Study Skills*, Casa Loma, noon.

STAFFWORKSHOPS

Jan. 18 to April 18 - Instructing the Adult; Part One - Teaching in the Community College; Sessions, which are held on Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m., cover planning and preparation, welcoming diversities, and instructional techniques. Part two consists of three electives. For information please call Shirley Lesh in the Staff Resource Centre at 415-4660. For specific information about electives call Margaret Whittleton at 415-2267.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

Dec. 3 - First Sunday of Advent, Christian (Gregorian Calendar)

STUDENT SUCCESS QUICK TIP

Reviewing material within 24 hrs. of hearing it is an important key to retention. When reviewing your notes, add your own personal graphics - symbols and pictures that are meaningful to you. The symbols will, at a later date, trigger your mind to remember what the speaker was talking about and your reaction to it.

(from Quantum Learning: Unleashing the Genius In You, Bobbi Deporter, Mike Hernacki)

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- Maunijyaras, Jainism.

Dec. 12 - Masa'il, Baha'i

Dec. 18 - First Day of Hannukkah, Judaism

Dec. 19 - Mi'raj al-Nabiyy, Islam

Dec. 25 - Christmas, Christianity (Gregorian Calendar)

Dec. 26 - Death of Zarathustra, Zoroastrianism

Dec. 28 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Sikhism

Dec. 31 - Sharaf, Ba'hai
- Ghambar Maidiyem, Zoroastrianism

CITY COLLEGE NEWS

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